

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 JIDDA 00403 200810Z

17S

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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R 200555Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9881

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

S E C R E T JIDDA 0403

EXDIS

E.O.: 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SA, SY

SUBJ: KING FAISAL'S VISIT TO SYRIA; EFFECTIVE SECRETARY'S
VISIT

REF : JIDDA 0402 (NOTAL)

1. PRINCE SULTAN, SAUDI MINISTER OF DEFENSE, TOLD THE
AMBASSADOR JAN 18 THAT IMMEDIATELY ON RECEIVING THE
MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY KISSINGER (REFTEL) HE INFORMED
THE KING, PRINCE FAHD, MINISTER OF INTERIOR; AND RASHAD
PHARAON, ROYAL ADVISOR.

2. SULTAN SAID THEY ALL WERE PLEASED WITH THE SECRETARY'S
SOLICITUDE AND APPRECIATED THE REASSURANCES GIVEN IN THE
MESSAGE. SULTAN COMMENTED "IN MY JUDGMENT THIS MESSAGE
HAD MUCH TO DO WITH THE SUCCESS OF THE KING'S VISIT TO
SYRIA." HE REFERRED TO THE JOING SYRIAN-SAUDI COMMUNIQUE
IN WHICH NO REFERENCES WERE MADE TO OIL, TO KISSINGER'S
"THREATS" OR ANYTHING ELSE WHICH MIGHT HAVE IMPLIED AN
ATTACK ON THE UNITED STATES. SULTAN SAID "IT TOOK
A LOT OF WORK TO GET THE SYRIANS TO ACCEPT THAT."

3. ACCORDING TO SULTAN, KING FAISAL WAS VERY PLEASED
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WITH HIS VISIT TO SYRIA. THE KING LIKED ASAD AND WOULD

LIKE TO KEEP HIM AND HIS "REASONABLE, LIKE-MINDED AIDES"
AWAY FROM SOVIET INFLUENCE AND "WHERE HE CAN DO THE
MOST GOOD FOR BOTH OF US."

4. COMMENT: WE DO NOT KNOW IF SULTAN WAS CORRECT IN HIS
ASSUMPTION THAT THE SYRIANS PRESSED FOR A STRONG ANTI-
AMERICAN STATEMENT. IF THEY DID IT IS CLEAR THAT FAISAL
REFUSED, AS HE CHARACTERISTICALLY WOULD. IT IS QUITE
PROBABLE THAT THE KING USED THE SECRETARY' MESSAGE IN
HIS TALKS WITH THE SYRIANS AND, WITHOUT DOWNGRADING ITS
IMPORTANCE, WE SUSPECT THAT THE PROSPECT OF \$350 MILLION
IN GIFT-LOANS PLAYED A FAIR PART IN THE SYRIAN ACQUIESENCE
TO FAISAL'S VERSION OF THE DRAFT COMMUNIQUE.

AKINS

SECRET

NNN

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